<u>REMARKS</u>

<u>Amendment to the Title</u>

Applicants have amended the title of the application to indicate that the personal information, referenced in the title as being stored in association with a user's identity, is applied to the output of an application program. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended title is descriptive of the invention claimed in the present application.

<u>Status of the Claims</u>

Claims 1–32 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, and 6-32, presently are amended to clarify the invention as defined in these claims, and to resolve typographical and other formal errors in the claims. All of the claims are amended for reasons entirely unrelated to the patentability of these claims, and none of the changes to the claims in any way relates to the art cited by the Examiner in rejecting the claims.

<u>Claim Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 112</u>

The Examiner rejected Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Claim 18, as originally presented, incorrectly depended from Claim 14, which was one of a set of method claims preceding the set of system claims of which Claim 18 is a part. The dependence of Claim 18 on Claim 14 was a typographical error, which applicants have corrected in this amendment.

<u>Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)</u>

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-21, 23-29, and 31-32 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) under U.S. Patent No. 6,339,826 B2 to Hayes, Jr., et al. (hereinafter "Hayes") The Examiner asserts that Hayes describes each element of applicants' claimed invention. Applicants respectfully disagree for the reasons discussed below.

In the interest of reducing the complexity of the issues for the Examiner to consider in this response, the following discussion focuses on independent Claims 1 and 17. The patentability of each remaining dependent claim is not necessarily separately addressed in detail. However, applicants' decision not to discuss the differences between the cited art and each dependent claim should not be considered as an admission that applicants concur with the Examiner's conclusion that these dependent claims are not patentable over the disclosure in the cited references. Similarly, applicants' decision not to discuss differences between the prior art and every claim element, or every

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comment made by the Examiner, should not be considered as an admission that applicants concur with the Examiner's interpretation and assertions regarding those claims. Indeed, applicants believe that all of the dependent claims patentably distinguish over the references cited. Moreover, a specific traverse of the rejection of each dependent claim is not required, since dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which the dependent claims ultimately depend.

With regard to independent Claim 1, the invention as defined by applicants' recited claim language is neither taught nor suggested by Hayes Generally, applicants emphasize that nothing in Hayes teaches or suggests associating personal information with a unique user identifier, allowing multiple application programs to access the personal information, or application of the personal information to an output of an application program. Furthermore, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the nature of personal information as recited in the claim, and it should now be even more evident that the invention of Claim 1 is neither taught nor suggested by the applied reference.

Hayes concerns a system for a network environment information where a user profile is received and stored on a server (Abstract; Figure 1; Col. 1, line 56 through Col. 2, line 30; Col. 6, line 57 through Col. 8, line 5) in order to manage client access to applications (Col. 9, lines 6 through 12; Col. 14, lines 7 through 67; Col. 15, lines 24 through 36). As a function of the system of Hayes, users or administrators are able to configure a profile of applications, or "applets," that will be made available to the users when they log on to client stations within the network, as is made clear in the summary of the invention of Hayes:

> The system described herein provides a ***common repository for configuration information for users and applets in a client-server environment***. This is referred to as client profile management. The system allows users to roam, that is, to log-in from any computer in the system at any time and have it configured automatically at run time according to the preferences stored for the user at the server. . . .

> The invention solves the problem whereby a user is able to configure his or her desktop so as presumably to be able to access an application on the server when, in fact, the user does not have system permission to access the application. When the user logs onto the system, the user identifies him or herself to the server by means of a system identifier and a password. The server uses this information to dynamically built [sic] a list of applications to which the user has access permission. That list is transmitted to the user's station. The application list is then used to build a portion of the desktop, preferably a desktop folder, of applications to which the user has access permission. . . .

In a preferred embodiment comprising a system with a network interconnecting a server and a plurality of user stations, the server stores a plurality of user applications for downloading to user stations and further stores access permissions for the applications for each user. *When a user attempts to log onto the system from a user station, the server receives a user log-on identifier from the user. The server uses the identifier to build a list of applications for which the user has access permission. A desktop object is then downloaded to the user station to control the interface between the user and the user's station. The server also downloads to the station a list of applications to which the user has access permission. . . . The system further verifies that the user has access to applications that are represented by icons that the user may have added to his or her desktop at an earlier time. For each user desktop preference specified by the user at an earlier time that corresponds to a user application, the access permission for the user to the user application is checked from the list, and, if the application is not included on the list, the desktop object representing the application is removed from the desktop.*

The preceding quotes are from Col. 4, lines 11 through 36 of Hayes; emphasis added. Thus, Hayes describes a system for controlling user *access* to applications and/or applets upon presentation of a user identifier at a client station.

Hayes mentions that some of the applets that may be accessed include configuration applets and user applets (Col. 8, lines 6 through 13). However, as further explained by Hayes, these applets are configured by an *administrator, not by a user:*

Profile manager 206 on the client side *allows the administrator to configure user applet preferences at both user and group levels.* The administrator can create new users and group hierarchies, add users to different groups, specify applet permissions for each group and for individual users. . . . The administrator can add, delete and reset *passwords* for users. (Col. 7, lines 54-60; emphasis added)

Thus, Hayes, contemplates the ability to set some "preferences," but does not describe what sort of information or parameters are included in these preferences. Moreover, Hayes, expressly describes that these "preferences" are set by an administrator. Furthermore, it is clear that the "preferences" concern control and access, including the applications and applets that are accessible by users or groups, the passwords are to be used, and similar access control functions.

Therefore, Hayes neither teaches nor suggests the invention recited in Claims 1 and 17. First, nothing in Hayes describes "receiving personal information" in the nature of a user's surname, a user's given name, a user's address, a user's set of initials, a user's telephone number, and a user's

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firm name as recited in Claims 1 and 17. At most, for the sake of argument, Hayes hints at personal information in the nature of a user identifier that might be used to logon to the system, but Hayes neither teaches nor suggests that there might be the type of personal information used as recited in Claims 1 and 17.

For example, as supported by the specification of the pending application in connection with FIGURE 7 describing personal information used with a word processing program, personal information such as names, firm names, phone numbers, etc., can be used by an application in templates and wizards, among other functions. As is understood, templates and wizards in a word processing document can be used to fill in names and addresses to customize and simplify drafting of letters and other documents. Hayes makes no such mention of this type of personal information and how it will be used.

Second, Hayes neither teaches nor suggests that the personal information is received from a user. As noted above, Hayes refers to what an administrator can do to configure access and "preferences" for applications and applets, but does not mention a user entering personal information. At most, Hayes mentions that the administrator can restrict a user's ability to configure an applet (Col. 8, lines 22-23), but never describes what the user might do to configure an application, what information is received, how the information will be stored, or how the information will be used. In fact, by concentrating on an administrator's ability to limit what a user can do to configure an application, it appears that Hayes teaches away from applicants' claimed invention. In any case, Hayes neither teaches nor suggests receiving personal information from a user.

Third, Hayes neither teaches nor suggests that the personal information is "accessible by a plurality of application programs" as stated in Claims 1 and 17, as amended. Whatever access information or "preferences" are contemplated by Hayes, and whether those "preferences" may be available to a single user or a group, Hayes fails to teach or suggest that multiple application programs may access that information.

Fourth, Hayes neither teaches nor suggests that its "preference" information is applied to the output of application programs. Hayes makes mention of access to applications and applets, but neither discusses nor implies that the preference information is applied to the output of application programs. As recited in Claims 1 and 17, the personal information of the claimed invention is applied to an output of the application program.

In sum, Hayes does not teach or suggest all of the steps recited in Claim 1 and elements recited in Claim 17. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment, reconsideration of the claims, and withdrawal of the rejection of independent Claims 1 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Because dependent claims are considered to include all of the elements of the independent claims from which the dependent claims ultimately depend and because Hayes does not disclose or suggest all of the steps and elements respectively of independent Claims 1 and 17, the rejection of dependent Claims 2-5, 7-13, 15-16, 18-21, 23-29, and 31-32, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Hayes should also be withdrawn for at least these reasons.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hayes and Alfred et al.

Claims 6, 14, 22, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayes in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/1200496 of Alfred et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Alfed"). However, Claims 6 and 14 depend from independent Claim 1, which is patentable for the reasons discussed above. Similarly, Claims 22 and 30 depend from independent Claim 17, which also is patentable for the reasons discussed above. Because dependent claims are considered to include all of the steps or elements of the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend, dependent Claims 6 and 14 and Claims 22 and 30 are patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above with regard to independent Claims 1 and 17, respectively.

In addition, applicants note that Alfred adds nothing to address the shortcomings of Hayes et al. in failing to teach or suggest the claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. As described at length above, Hayes concerns a network environment information where a user profile is received and stored on a server (Abstract; Figure 1; Col. 1, line 56 through Col. 2, line 30; Col. 6, line 57 through Col. 8, line 5) in order to manage client access to applications (Col. 9, lines 6 through 12; Col. 14, lines 7 through 67; Col. 15, lines 24 through 36). Thus, Hayes does not teach or suggest receiving personal information from a user to be stored and applied to the output of an application program. Like Hayes, Alfred describes control of user access to resources. More particularly, Alfred describes a system where a user subscribing to a network service provider can access network resources that will allow a user to access e-mail attachments on a remote computer, even when the computer does not support the applications needed to access those attachments (Para. 16). As needed, Alfred et al. arranges for download of download of applications, such as word processors,

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spreadsheets, and graphics programs, needed to access the attachments (Para. 18) which are provided as "loaners" to the subscriber (Para. 24-25).

However, Alfred fails to describe receiving personal information from a user that can be associated with a user identity and applied to output of the "loaner" application programs as described above. Thus, Alfred fails to make up for any shortcomings of Hayes in teaching or suggesting the present invention with regard to independent Claims 1 and 17, as well as Claims 6, 14, 22, and 30. Accordingly, the rejection of dependent Claims 6, 14, 22, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

In view of the amendments and Remarks set forth above, it will be apparent that the claims in this application define a novel and non-obvious invention, and that the application is in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue without further delay. Should any further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' attorney at the number listed below.
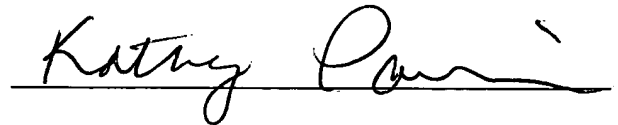
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 7, 2004.

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